



WHITGIFT

SYLLABUS AND SAMPLE QUESTIONS

for

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

ENGLISH

(Boys aged between 10 and 12 at 1st September of year of admission)

WHITGIFT SCHOOL
ENTRANCE EXAMINATION SYLLABUS
ENGLISH

There will be two papers for Groups A – C. These groups will sit the same papers.

Paper 1 will be an essay paper, 55 minutes long. It will test the candidates' ability to write good English, with proper regard for accuracy and sentence structure. Control, imaginative flair and convincing personal writing will be rewarded.

Paper 2 will be 45 minutes long and will contain questions testing comprehension, punctuation, vocabulary, syntax and grammatical usage; a knowledge of formal grammatical terms will not be required.

The best preparation for these papers is regular and varied reading and practice in extended writing.

SAMPLE PAPER 1

Answer only **ONE** question, either 1 or 2.

1. Write a story in which the following are used in some way. (It need not be the most obvious way!):
 - Africa
 - a key
 - a mystery

2. Write an essay about a time when you overcame a difficulty or conquered a fear.

SAMPLE PAPER 2

1. The Punctuation Thief has been busy again and has stolen ten important pieces of punctuation from the passage below. He has taken the following:

2 sets of open speech marks	“
2 sets of closing speech marks	”
2 exclamation marks	!
1 question mark	?
2 full-stops	;
1 apostrophe	'

Restore them by writing them in the correct places.

Well, what are you all waiting for she barked. Everyone stand by a broomstick.
Come on, hurry up.

Harry glanced down at his broom. It was old and some of the twigs stuck out at odd angles.

"Stick out your right hand over your broom," called Madam Hooch at the front,
"and say 'Up' "

"Up" everyone shouted

Harry's broom jumped into his hand at once, but it was one of the few that did.

2. On your holiday abroad you have a meal in a restaurant. The writer of the menu has had some difficulties with his English. Help him out by correcting the mistakes. Each mistake is printed in bold. Write the correct word in the brackets that follow each one.

Welcome to the Yummi Tummi Café.

We is () delited ()
to offer a **speshiality** () Menu for
Vegetablans ().

Please asking () your
water () to see the
Whine () list.

This is a **No-Smirking** () café.

We wished () you a
plesaunt () meal.

3. In the following poem, ten words have been removed and placed in the box beneath it. Write the correct word in each gap.

Seasons

In Springtime when the leaves are
Clear dewdrops gleam like, hung
On boughs the birds roost among.

When comes with unrest,
Birds of their mother's breast,
And look abroad and leave the nest.

In Autumn ere the waters freeze,
The fly across the:-
If we could fly away with these!

In when the birds are gone,
The sun himself looks and wan,
And starved the snow he shines upon.

Christina Rossetti

seas	swallows	jewels
starved	Summer	young
fair	weary	sweet
	Winter	

4. Read the poem below and complete the questions by underlining the best answer:

The Apple Raid

Darkness came early, though not yet cold;
Stars were strung on the telegraph wires;
Street lamps spilled pools of liquid gold;
The breeze was spiced with garden fires.

- 5 That smell of burnt leaves, the early dark,
Can still excite me but not as it did
So long ago when we met in the Park -
Myself, John Peters and David Kidd.

- 10 We moved out of town to the district where
The lucky and wealthy had their homes
With garages, gardens, and apples to spare
Ripely clustered in the trees' green domes.

- 15 We chose the place we meant to plunder
And climbed the wall and dropped down to
The secret dark. Apples crunched under
Our feet as we moved through the grass and dew.

- 20 The clusters on the lower boughs of the tree
Were easy to reach. We stored the fruit
In pockets and jerseys until all three
Boys were heavy with their tasty loot.

Safe on the other side of the wall
We moved back to town and munched as we went.
I wonder if David remembers at all
That little adventure, the apples' fresh scent?

- 25 Strange to think that he's fifty years old,
That tough little boy with scabs on his knees;
Stranger to think that John Peters lies cold
In an orchard in France beneath apple trees.

Vernon Scannell

- A. The time of year described in the opening line is:

- i) mid-summer
- ii) late autumn
- iii) early spring
- iv) mid-winter

- B. In line 4 the poet says "the breeze was spiced with garden fires" because:

- i) people were holding barbecue parties.
- ii) the takeaway next to the street lamp was open.
- iii) it was so dry that fires had spread through the neighbourhood.
- iv) the smell of bonfires gave a strong scent.

- C. The area they went raiding in lines 9 and 10 was:
- i) away from the town centre in the leafy suburbs.
 - ii) where lots of lottery winners lived.
 - iii) so rich that people built domes on top of their houses.
 - iv) round the back of the garages.
- D. "Plunder" (line 13) means:
- i) climb
 - ii) eat
 - iii) steal
 - iv) tunnel
- E. In lines 14 and 15 they "dropped down to/the secret dark". This suggests:
- i) the boys dropped to their stomachs and crawled along.
 - ii) the boys jumped down from the wall into a dark, private garden.
 - iii) the boys behaved like secret agents on a raid.
 - iv) the boys dropped most of their apples when climbing the wall.
- F. In line 20 the boys are "heavy with their tasty loot" because:
- i) they've stuffed their clothes with as many stolen apples as possible.
 - ii) they've eaten so many apples that they're stuffed full and heavy.
 - iii) they've got to carry the little store they have brought with them.
 - iv) they've become soaked with the dew which has made their clothes and shoes heavy.
- G. "Strange to think that he's fifty years old" (line 25) suggests:
- i) that David is a very mature boy.
 - ii) that David is a man acting like a boy.
 - iii) that the poet has now moved ahead in time.
 - iv) that the poet has now moved back in time.
- H. The last two lines of the poem tell us that:
- i) one of the boys has moved to France.
 - ii) one of the boys is on a camping holiday in an orchard in France.
 - iii) John Peters is buried in the very same orchard they raided as boys.
 - iv) John Peters died in the war and is buried in an orchard in France.
- I. The form of this poem is best described as:
- i) seven four-line verses with alternate lines rhyming.
 - ii) a series of rhyming limericks.
 - iii) seven four-line verses with no set rhyme-scheme.
 - iv) seven four-line verses with pairs of lines rhyming.

J. Overall the feeling of the poem is best described as:

- i) a happy childhood memory.
- ii) a sad childhood memory.
- iii) a strong childhood memory with a reflection on the passing of time.
- iv) a strong reflection on the passing of time telling us to leave memories behind.

5. HIDDEN WORDS

In the following sentences there are the names of five animals hiding camouflaged in amongst the letters. Write down the name of the animal in the space provided.

e.g.

He made errors on purpose.

deer

- 1. I must give it up, I grieve to say.
- 2. At last a girl moved.
- 3. Impossible! O Pardon me, I am sorry.
- 4. I got terrified out of my wits.
- 5. The lamb is one of my pets.